the Lambda.ca

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Tuesday, February 11, 2014

\$10m SGA student center referendum vote to come

BY KAYLA PERRY

The referendum option for a new \$10 million SGA student center was passed unanimously by the SGA board on January 29.

During SGA elections, a ballot will also be cast for students to either vote for or against the referendum.

If the referendum passes with SGA students during the elections, the new \$10 million student center will be funded using a thirty-year tiered system – the first year of construction SGA would charge a \$40 student fee, the second year an \$80 fee, and every year after that, for 28 years, a \$114 fee.

Andy Rollins, SGA President, said that upper-year students, who won't be around to see the final student center, will only pay the "lower fee at the starting two years."

Rollins, who is serving his second-consecutive presidency, said he has been working on developing a plan for a new student center for the past two years.

"One thing that we realized, because the university is growing and planning out where their space is going to go, if it is the idea of the student body that they want to have a student center, now is the time for us to go to referendum and plan where our building is going to be before we are pushed to the outskirts of the university and it doesn't appeal to students because they can't access it," said Rollins.

If passed, the new 20,000 square foot center will be its own building, featuring new study space, lounge area, and possibly a new games room, although Rollins said all plans of what will be inside the building are



Photo by Zara Golafshani

SGA President Andy Rollins stands outside the SGA office. The SGA board recently approved the option for the students to vote on a referendum for a new student center.

theoretical until the referendum is voted on.

Although locations for the building are still up in the air, the executive is mainly focusing on one spot – if you've seen the new plans for campus modernization it falls between the road and the ISLC, which Rollins said is close to the bus route and "in the heart of campus."

Rollins said the new center will be "most attractive" for the commercial outlet space in the building – space that can be filled with any food provider students

choose. Given that the student center will be the SGA's own building, it will be autonomous from any Laurentian University contracts with food providers such as Aramark.

"It causes a more competitive nature on campus which helps to make food prices lower, which is one big positive thing," said Rollins. "Another thing is that we've been contacted by places like campus dentist and pharmacies – getting those things on campus (and in the center) will make it a lot easier

for students, not having to travel or bus, if they can actually get all that stuff done on campus."

The SGA has taken a "public positive stance" on the referendum, the first time the SGA has done so while Rollins has been in office.

"One of the big complaints just around the university now is that we're outgrowing the space that we're in, and it's very apparent that we are when a few years ago you could go into the games room and there was space to sit down or hang out with

your friends," said Rollins. "Now it's tough to go in there with a group of friends and find space for everybody...We're growing as a university, but the space that we've had hasn't grown with us."

In the time before the elections, which will happen March 20 and 21, the SGA will hold multiple "town-hall type meetings" around campus, where students can ask questions about the student center and give input

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WRAPS UPTHEIR CENTENNI VITIES WITH A GALA

Going out with a bang, the University of Sudbury will host a GALA at the Radisson on May 3, 2014.

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Do students feel safe walking by themselves on campus?

With the new Safe Walk program that's begun at Laurentian University, an obvious question arises: is the Laurentian University campus a safe place? More importantly, do students feel safe on campus?

In an attempt to answer this question Lambda staff conducted a small research poll, asking 30 random students if they feel safe to walk alone on campus.

Of those asked, 93.3 per cent of students said they feel safe, and 6.7 per cent said they feel "fairly" safe. Furthermore, all those asked said they would walk alone on campus at any hour of the night.

Of course, it's possible that Lambda staff happened to ask 30 people that feel safe, while another 30 may not - it's also very possible that those questioned were upperyear students, who possibly had more time and exposure to campus, rather than frosh who may still be trying to become familiar with the land.

However, I'm inclined to agree with the vast majority of those asked: I believe Laurentian campus is a safe place. There are many reasons for this, perhaps the most obvious being that Laurentian's campus is secluded,



KAYLA PERRY

differing from some Ontario campuses that find themselves in the center of cities such as Toronto or London.

Our seclusion offers to (almost) eliminate the threat from off-campus persons, served as evidence by the common joke on campus that you're more likely to be attacked by a bear than another human being.

Nonetheless, I can speak from

no matter the hour or day, I feel comfortable walking on campus. Whether it's walking from the library or from the pub, I find that campus is consistently well-lit, and has clear and safe (for the most part) walking paths.

With all that being said, is the Safe Walk program really necessary?

Of course, it's nice to know that the Safe Walk program is there if personal experience in saying that ever need be, but one can question how often students will be willing to call other students, whom they may not know, to walk them to their oncampus homes, when our polling suggests that students feel safe alone?

Although Laurentian security provides more or less the same walkhome program that Safe Walk does, the walk-home escorts are security guards of authority rather than other, possibly more-relatable students.

When asked originally, the two creators of Safe Walk said they felt the program was necessary, given that Laurentian University was the only university in Ontario that doesn't have a walk-home program, aside from the Royal Military College.

However, as mentioned above, the Laurentian campus is not like other Ontario campuses, given its far-away location from town, and other forms of civilization.

Ultimately, I think that only time will tell if Safe Walk is necessary, given time to see how often it will or will not be used. That will likely answer the question of if students feel safe on campus or not.

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Laurentian hosts first TEDx

BY KAYLA PERRY

On Feb.6, 2014, Laurentian University hosted its first ever TEDX event in the Science North Cavern.

The TEDX, titled New Insights of the North, featured speeches from five Canadian research chairs, Nathan Basiliko, Gillian Crozier, John Gunn, Thomas Merritt, and Albrecht Schulte-Hostedde, as well as Janet McElhaney, Senior Scientist at the Advances Medical Research Institute of Canada.

A TEDX is an independently organized TEDX event, which requires a license granted by TED to hold. There are also certain rules and regulations that must be followed at a TEDX: at Laurentian's TEDX, only 100 were allowed to attend. Furthermore, a certain number of TED videos from the Ted Talks website must be played during the event.

Each speaker touched on a different science research topic, ranging from the history of sulphur dioxide in Sudbury to chipmunk mating.

Schulte-Hostedde, a professor in the department of biology at Laurentian, was one of the six speakers to address the audience at TEDX, and said he had a "great time" speaking.

A Canada Research Chair who has been a professor at Laurentian for 10-and-ahalf years, Schulte-Hostedde decided to participate because he thought "educating people on how interesting and important science research is" is ultimately worth doing.

If there was one thing Hostedde wanted the audience to take away from his speech, it was that "natural selection



Photo by Kayla Perry

Laurentian University hosted their first Tedx event at Science North on Feb. 6.

is an easy concept to grasp, and that human activities can have evolutionary consequences for biodiversity."

The TEDX event began with a cocktail hour, then an introductory TED Talks video, followed by four of the speakers, at which point there was a brief intermission. The evening ended with the final two speakers and another TED video.

Valerie Charbonneau, executive assistant to the chief of staff, was among those who helped organize the TEDX event, acting as the curator/director.

"There is a need to bridge what we are doing in research at Laurentian with the community," said Charbonneau. "It's also about us at Laurentian learning as a community and researching... So we can further our conversations, gain better insights and continue to grow for the north."

Isabelle Belanger, a third-year student studying Forensic Sciences at Laurentian, was among the 100 people who attended the event.

"I thought it would be a great

opportunity to network with researchers at the front of the field," said Belanger.

During the event, the speeches were broadcasted live through the Laurentian website, and Charbonneau said that after the video footage from the night is edited it will be uploaded onto the Laurentian website, at laurentan.ca/tedxlaurentianu, for others to view.

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Denis Mayer looks back on 25-year career

BY KAYLA PERRY

Denis Mayer knows Laurentian University. After all, until his recent retirement in January, he'd been here for 25 years.

Prior to retirement, Mayer had been associate vice-president of student affairs.

Twenty-eight-year-old Mayer first came to LU from Cochrane, a small northern town, to earn his MBA. Half way through completing his Masters he began working at the university as associate director for the center for continuing education, back in

Then, in 1996, Mayer was promoted to cirector of continuing education, which changed to the director of student affairs a year

later.

In 2003, Mayer's position was officially reclassified to associate vice-president of student affairs, as it would remain until his retirement.

"The whole 25 years was a very enriching and very rewarding experience," said Mayer. "My job changed a lot as it evolved with different departments coming and going, but what I'll miss most was that the people who worked (at Laurentian) were very committed, very loyal and very supportive of me."

Why did Mayer decide to stay at Laurentian for as long as he did? The bilingual opportunity was a major pull-factor for Mayer, whose first language is French. "I was really comfortable in that environment, and Laurentian embodied the values I had," said Mayer.

When he first started working as associate director, John Daniel was the president of Laurentian University and would later come to be called Sir John Daniel after spending time as a professor in a British university.

When Mayer came to Laurentian, many of the buildings that students and staff frequent today did not yet exist: the recreation centre, school of education, health sciences building, medical school, east and west residence and the living with lakes centre were not yet built. Furthermore, the Desmarais

library and the science building only had 3 floors.

"If you look behind the front desks at the registrar, there was a large wall separating students from the inside of the registration office – during my time as VP I tore that wall down, so students would be able to feel like they're inside the office, and could actually come inside the office and interact with the staff," said Mayer. "I didn't realize how much Laurentian has grown in the past 25 years, which is good. Laurentian will continue to grow."

Mayer decided to eventually leave his position as VP to pursue his Ph.D at Laurentian; Mayer said his "passion" is studying "first generation students," and why Laurentian first-generation students, which make up about 60 per cent of the university's population, are more successful than first generation students attending other Canadian universities.

Upon announcing his retirement, a farewell reception was held for Mayer on January 17 in the Governors' Lounge.

Although Mayer said he doesn't have one favourite memory during his time at the university, he said that his time at the university "really enriched my whole life, and allowed me to continue learning."

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Tim Hicks gives LU Great Hall a satisfying send-off



Photos by Kallie Berens

Tim Hicks played the last show in the Laurentian University Great Hall on Feb. 8, prior to renovations.

BY KALLIE BERENS

On Saturday, Feb. 8, SGA students rushed from Airbandz and into their country best for the last concert that will take place in the Great Hall prior to renovations.

Doors opened at 10 p.m. with a ten-song act from country singer Leah Daniels, a 26-year-old hailing from Uxbridge, Ontario.

Daniels and her three-piece backup band played new material along with songs by OneRepublic, Foo Fighters and Survivor's "Eye Of The Tiger."

In her last song, Daniels unveiled a talent for yodeling.

By the time the headliner, Tim Hicks, came onstage approximately thirteen people were wearing cowboy hats by the main stage, and another fifteen were wearing trucker hats, a style that Tim Hicks has worn in his videos and promotional shots. He did not disappoint that night.

Beginning shortly after 11 p.m. tension built up as the band waited to take the stage, AC/DC's "Back in Black" providing filler music, pierced by screaming fans.

Tim Hicks and his band engaged the crowd by requesting synchronized clapping during various parts of their songs, ensuring cellphones were rarely used during the show.

"Rarely" is used, because within the first half hour, in the midst of a song, Hicks had posted two videos to his Twitter account using the application Vine, with shots of the crowd

and flashes of himself with his fellow bandmates. When Hicks announced to the crowd that the videos had been uploaded, the crowd cheered loudly.

Hicks also borrowed phones from front-row audience members, snapping photos then handing them back to their rightful owners.

Hicks, who comes from St. Catharines, is currently nominated in two categories at the upcoming Juno Awards and through the Canadian Country Music Association. His number one selling single "Get By" was the number-one selling single in Canada for seventeen weeks and was certified gold.

In addition to playing songs off his August 2013 release "Throw



Down" he played a song that he "wrote last week" and a number of covers, including "Sudbury Saturday Night" by Stompin' Tom Connors.

A week before the concert, the SGA announced that admission was free to all students within

the association with an option to bring one non-SGA guest for an additional twenty dollars.

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Planetarium and LU observatory renos complete, live astronomy class to return

BY KAYLA PERRY

It is a "proud time" for Paul-Emilie Legault, Director of the Doran Planetarium and professor of 46 years at Laurentian.

Legault is proud because the renovations to the Doran Planetarium, as well as Laurentian observatory, have been completed.

Renovations began in October 2013, and were completed at the beginning of February.

In the planetarium, renovations include new flooring, reupholstered chairs, newly painted walls and some updated computer programs. In the observatory, the motor which opened the observatory door and spins the dome was replaced, along with another round of fresh paint. The small room attached to the observatory was also renovated to serve as a warming room during the cold winter months, which Legault said are actually the "best time" to use the observatory.

In total, the renovations to both spaces cost approximately \$20,000, money which came from both the Dean of Science and Engineering's office as well as the Vice President's office.

Along with renovations comes the return of the live General Astronomy course, which has not been taught live for four years, during which time it was available only through Envision.

The live course will initially be offered in spring 2014 when students will primarily spend classes in the Doran Planetarium, and again in September 2014, where in the past Legault has said class sizes have been much larger during the school year, at which point he divides the class into two, with alternating groups studying in the planetarium and a classroom.

Students in the course will also be offered visits to the observatory for non-mandatory sessions.

Legault acts as the director, producer, narrator and technician for the Planetarium and all of its shows, which are conducted approximately monthly

Sudbury grade or high schools at variety of shows that are available, a charge.

Legault also said that the Planetarium will host free shows for any LU clubs or organizations at their request.

"In March the International Students are coming in – there might be other groups that are interested on campus, and it is free for them," said Legault. "I have a

so they can choose what they are interested in."

The Doran Planetarium, which is located in the basement of the Fraser building, is one of three on-campus planetariums Canadawide, accompanied only by the Lockhard Planetarium at the University of Manitoba and the W. J. McCallion Planetarium at

McMaster University.

Legault was at Laurentian for the opening of the Doran Planetarium – although a smaller planetarium had opened at LU in 1967, and Legault came to LU one year later, the actual Doran Planetarium opened later.

"I think it's great," said Ubi Wichoski, Chair of the Physics Department at LU, regarding the

renovations. "(The planetarium) gives students a chance to visualize what they talk about in class, and the observatory lets them see the

Although dates are not yet confirmed, Wichoski said he is hoping to organize an official reopening ceremony for the end of February.





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LU hosts Aboriginal awareness week

BY WILLIE POLL

Feb. 3 marked the beginning Laurentian's annual Aboriginal awareness week. The week kicked off with an opening ceremony, singing and drumming as well as a traditional songs and protocol presentation by elder Jerry Otawadjiwan, the welcoming of a New Zealand Maori elder, an aboriginal healing practices and ceremonies presentation by Ron McGregor and Gloria Oshkabewisens-McGregor, as well as a lunch gathering. This years events were hosted by Laurentan's Aboriginal student Association (ASA).

"The turn out was amazing," Amy Shawanda, a Laurentian student, said. "They had events running at different times with a variety of events, such teachings, medicine pouch making, tie blankets, snowshoeing and films. Guests were always comfortable and everyone was having a good time."

One of the topics included two spirited beings, who, according to 2spirits.com "are gifted among all beings because they carried two spirits: that of male and female. It is told that women engaged in tribal warfare and married other women as there were men who married other men. These individuals were looked upon as a third gender in many cases and in almost all cultures they were honored and revered. They were often visionaries, the healers, and the medicine people. They were respected as fundamental components of our ancient culture and societies."

The teaching did not only make an impact on Aboriginal awareness but also brought up themes of loving who you are, as well as LGBTQ rights.

"This was an amazing teaching for those who do not know about two spirited people," Shawanda said. "Although I could not stay for the whole teaching, I was just saddened by how two spirited people are treated today. It was only but a small glimpse of what they experience, but

at the same time I could relate as an Indigenous Person you cannot change who you are, but people judge you based on your skin type, or one's sexual orientation."

Aboriginal awareness week gave many students and community members to learn about indigenous rights, indigenous ways of life, healing methods, spirituality, as well as have some fun and come together and build relationships. The week ended with a snowshoeing excursion on Feb. 7.

Curious Thyme's closes on LU campus

BY KAYLA PERRY

January 24 brought the official closure of CT2GO, the food provider in the University of Sudbury.

CT2GO was located in the Ludger & Amanda Michel University Commons in the University of Sudbury building, and was a smaller division of the Curious Thyme's by the Water restaurant, which was located in the upstairs of Science North. According to Curious Thyme's voicemail, that location has since closed as well.

The food provider originally opened in the commons during

a 'soft opening' on November 19, and remained there until just over three months later when the company apparently declared bankruptcy.

Pierre Zundel, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Sudbury, said the company went bankrupt "quickly," stating "we got notice that (CT2GO) was going to reduce their hours, with no explanation, and then two days after that we got another notice that they would cease operations.

Zundel said he thinks it is "unlikely" there will be another food provider to replace CT2GO

this academic year, as it is already late in the semester: if the university can find somebody, Zundel suspects it will be opened "for a September start."

In searching for a replacement, Zundel said the university will once again look for a local franchise to fill the space, and although it is unlikely that a chain store would enter the location, he would want to employ a local franchise regardless.

During its time in the commons, CT2GO offered coffee and teas, fresh fruit and vegetable juices, smoothies, and a variety of lunch items.



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How the Landlord and Tenant Board can help you: column

LONDON (CUP) — Most you should visit ltb.gov.on.ca. tenants in Ontario who rent houses or apartments are in leases covered by the Residential Tenancies Act. The Landlord and Tenant Board (LTB) is in charge of enforcing this law. If you have a maintenance concern that your landlord is not addressing, if your landlord wants to evict you, if you have been charged an illegal deposit, or for any other dispute about tenant rights, the LTB will be the place to settle that dispute.

Who Will Hear And Decide My Case?

An LTB case will not be in a courtroom or heard by a judge. It is a special tribunal that hears only about landlord and tenant matters. Your case will be heard by "Members" who are appointed by the provincial government. Members may be lawyers, community legal workers, arbitrators, business people, social workers or others. Because a Member deals with only tenancy disputes, they have a large amount of special knowledge about the Residential Tenancies Act.

The role of the LTB and the Members is to provide information about the Residential Tenancies Act and resolve disputes. Often, tenants and landlords can get information from the LTB and resolve disputes on their own. For the resources and information available from the Landlord and Tenant Board,

Scheduling A Hearing:

Tenants and landlords are both allowed to apply to the LTB, requesting that an LTB Member make an "Order" for the landlord or tenant to do something. The forms to apply are available on at Itb.gov.on.ca. Some examples of orders that a Member might grant include: an order to fix a leaky toilet, an order that a tenant be evicted, or an order that the landlord return an illegal deposit plus interest.

When you have filled your application and filed it with the LTB, you will be given a Notice of Hearing. You then must "serve" that document on the other party by giving them a copy, and then file a Certificate of Service with the LTB that says when, where and how you served the other party with the proper documents. A failure to serve your adversary properly may mean that you have to start all over from the

On your hearing date, you get the chance to present your case to the Member by bringing documents and witnesses. The other party will bring their own documents and witnesses to present their case. You will be given the chance to ask questions to every witness, and make a closing statement, before the Member decides your case and makes an Order.

Film festival showcases Indigenous films at U of S

BY WILLIE POLL

This year, the University of Sudbury presented Urban Glyphs: A Festival of Indigenous Film. Together, Karyn Recollet and Alex Hayes, or, as they call themselves, "the wolf pack," created a film festival including not only films but also different talks and workshops. There were a variety of presenters, such as Joseph Naytowhow, a Cree storyteller, singer, and theatre artist, and Jules Koostachin a Cree filmmaker and theatre artist.

"We contacted Vtape distribution in Toronto, and Mongrel Media to attain rights to screen the feature and short films," Recollet said. "Working with Bill Sanders and Mary Recollet were an integral part of the process in ensuring a successful festival. The process was multi-layered: attaining screening rights, and establishing relationships with community artists."

The purpose of the event was to celebrate indigenous theatre, as well as creative arts. The films touch on a number of stories, traditions, experiences, issues, as well as showcase indigenous theatre arts.

"I think these events are important because thev showcase the work of amazing artists," Hayes said. creative visions can then touch the heart and provoke

thought from an interested audience. Watching these films will give people a glimpse of the diversity within the Indigenous community."

The festival ended with the award-winning film Empire of Dirt by Peter Stebbings, who has acted for more than 20 years.

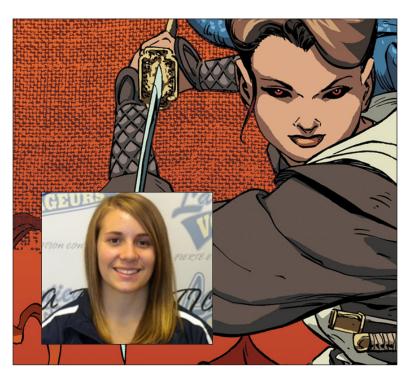
"Indigenous stories are very complex," Recollet said. "That we are coming from a variety of nations and experiences that distil and challenge the monolithic Indian. Together these stories show that First

Nations and Metis are using the cultural raw materials within popular culture to address and re-appropriate stereotypes. These stories are showing that we have wonderful, rich love stories amongst us, that we are representative of ourselves and that we don't conform to one distinct pattern or mold. They also show us the humor- and the ability to laugh at ourselves, and that it's okay to critique the work in an ethical manner."





Laura Deller is Shadowcat



BY LAMBDA STAFF

Shadowcat possesses the ability to turn herself or any object or person she comes in contact with to become intangible. She is the youngest member to join the superhero team, the X-Men.

This makes Laurentian Voyageurs goaltender Laura Deller the perfect fit for the heroine. Like Shadowcat, Deller joined her club at a young age, having just concluded her rookie campaign as an 18-year-old.

Deller posted a .921 save percentage while facing an average of 31.9 shots-per-game. She ranks third among rookie goaltenders in save percentage, displaying how important

she is to her team as a leader on the ice. The Woodstock-native embodies the hard work and consistency the Voyageurs require as a new team in the OUA.

There's no word on whether Deller used her superpowers to provide her club with such intangibles, but her impact has been felt on the first-ever women's hockey team at Laurentian University.

Illustrations provided by Marvel Comics

Shadowcat (real name: Kitty Pryde) is one of the kindest and most useful characters in the Marvel universe. She is often the voice of compassion on the X-Men.



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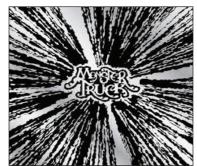
ASSISTANT EDITOR

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Lily Allen - Hard Out Here

The first time I listened to this song I absolutely hated it: the use of profanity, the chorus that doesn't actually make sense. However, after listening a few more times I actually came to love it: it's ultimately about standing up against the objectification of women, which is admirable.



Monster Truck - Power of the People

This tune is sweet because it expresses how the future is in our hands. If we come together nothing can stop us. It's just matter of time.



The Cab - Bad

The song is about a guy who has an awesome girlfriend but wants a bad girl. He defines bad girl as someone who stays out too late and doesn't answer his calls. It's very catchy and addicting.



Meek Mill - Young Kings

Meek Mill delivers high-impact verses on a perfect, rolling beat. Great song for the car or for the gym.



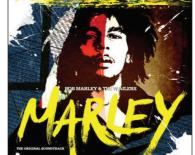
Mandroid Echostar Ancient Arrows

Energetic dual guitars in the intro, a blistering pace throughout, and vocals that lock you in for the nearly five-minute ride. A mix of progressive, hard rock, pop, and other musical genres.



Wham - Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go

The. Happiest. Song. Ever? I think so. Although if you've actually been following my song and album recommendations you'll notice I think all songs from the 80's are the happiest I've ever heard.



Bob Marley and the Wailers Get Up and Stand Up!

Last week it would have been Marley's 69th birthday, so I chose this tasty jam because it tells us to not stay quiet and stand up for what we believe in. To quote the legend himself, "Life is your right, don't give up the fight!"



Thomas Rhett - Get Me Some of That

A great country love song about a boy who falls in love with a girl watching her at the bar. He simply has to "get him some of that". It has a really cute country feel and is an awesome first date, butterflies, kind of song



Cold War Kids - Bitter Ooem

Everyone likes a sad song from time-to-time, and the Cold War Kids deliver well with this as the final track on their latest album.



The Dear Hunter - Black Sandy Beaches

Beautifully blends a variety of intruments to form a touching, catchy song that will pleasantly reside in your head. The entire album requires a listen to understand the lyrics, though.



Party Next Door - Break from Toronto

Although it's completely different from anything I would regularly listen to I was pleasantly surprised. Just don't let the lyrics about the artist bringing a stripper to Toronto throw you.



Jeff Healey Band - See the Light

Healey was an incredible guitarist who was blind. In this song, Healey really brings you into his head through his guitar. It is outstanding to listen to the many different riffs, especially his guitar solo near the end.



Tyler Farr - Redneck Crazy

A great break up song about a man who does some shenannigans to his exes life after she leaves him for another man. It involves everything a country song should like a chevy truck and beer. Excellent song for people going through a break up to let out a little steam and sing about going redneck crazy.



Daft Punk - Lose Yourself to Dance

In typical Daft Punk style, this song is a feel-good, catchy tune great for a night out or hanging around the house.



Haken - Falling Back to Earth

A nearly 12-minute epic with more instruments than you can name. There isn't a stone left unturned here. An exhausting and satisfying journey of a song. Proglovers rejoice.

Local band organize music festival

BY KALLIE BERENS

From Feb. 28 to Mar. 2 local band The Almighty Rhombus will be curating an indoor music festival, taking place at the Grace Hall on Antwerp Avenue and the Townehouse Tavern on Elgin.

A first of its kind for the city, the three-day festival features 20 bands from all around Canada, including local acts Coast Redwood, Strange Attractor and Pistol George Warren. Out of town acts include Ketamines from Toronto, and Shotgun Jimmie who was longlisted for the 2011 Polaris Music Prize.

It is called The Big Basement Show because the band was looking to replicate the feeling of a typical show in someone's basement, complete with couches and vintage video games, but on a larger scale.

The festival was initially announced in October and promoted through Canadian media outlets such as Exclaim Magazine. On a local scale, the band compiled a mix of their favourite tracks from each act and gave these away for free in CD format. This was to further add to the atmosphere of a typical basement show.

In January and February, the band organized a number of events at the Townehouse Tavern in order to raise funds for the show, including a Guilty Pleasures night in early January and an upcoming "Pre-Game" show with local acts Left Hand Path, SwanxSong and Bad Policy on Feb. 27.

Originally the festival was to take place in the basement of Theatre Cambrian, however, the venue was changed to the Grace Hall due to a flood in the basement of the theatre in early January.

Events start Friday, Feb. 28, at 11:00 p.m. at the Townehouse Tavern, featuring local acts Coast Redwood and Geyser as well as Hamilton's B.A. Johnston.

Saturday and Sunday's events take place at the Grace Hall beginning in the afternoon on both days. Tickets can be purchased on individual days or a weekend pass, which guarantees access to shows at both venues. A day pass, valid for any day, costs \$31.24 online and a weekend pass costs \$42.54.

Since October the band has announced partnerships with local music festivals organized by River and Sky, Northern Lights Festival Boréal and La Slague.

More information can be found on The Almighty Rhombus Facebook page or by emailing thealmightyrhombus@ gmail.com.

The Big Basement Show lineup

Feb. 28, The Townehouse Tayern

11 p.m. - Coast Redwood 12 a.m. - B.A. Johnston

1 a.m. - Geyser

March 1, Grace Hall

4 p.m. - Pink Wine

4:50 p.m. - TV Freaks

5:40 p.m. - Crosss

6:30 p.m. - TEENANGER

7:20 p.m. - Strange Attractor

8:10 p.m. - Public Animal

9:15 p.m. - Pistol George Warren

March 1, The Townehouse Tavern

11 p.m. - Echoes The Lion

12 a.m. - Ketamines

1 a.m. - Eye Was an Ion

March 2, Grace Hall

5 p.m. - The Almighty Rhombus

5:50 p.m. - Blonde Elvis

6:40 p.m. - Low Animal

7:30 p.m. - Marine Dreams

8:20 p.m. - The Dirty Nil

9:20 p.m. - By Divine Right

10:10 p.m. - Shotgun Jimmie





Column: the many allures of France

COLUMN BY MATT RABEY

France is not only the most visited country in Europe, but in the entire world, and for good reason.

France is famous for so many things and is very diverse depending on where you visit explains Coralie Deffains, a French, Translation and multilingual communication exchange student to Laurentian University.

"You should visit France because it's a country very varied depending on where you are going. The west coast: Bretagne, which is where I am from, is very nice to visit for its landscapes, the wild coasts are really beautiful and there are some very typical villages that are really cute."

For travellers who enjoy wine, France is not only the world's largest, but also arguably the world's best producer.

High quality wine in France is also very cheap as the government subsidizes the vineyards of the country to ensure that they still make a decent profit while keeping the costs of the fruit of their labour down.

Some of the most famous regions for wine include Burgundy, Bordeaux and Champagne, which produces the drink that bears its name

The Champagne region is also famous for the cathedral, Notre-Dame de Reims.

This massive cathedral's stunning architecture and rich history making it one of the most visited churches in the world.

"Going south," states Deffains, "either the Atlantic or the Mediterranean coast are really nice regions, where the weather that is hotter, you can enjoy the beaches. On the Atlantic side you can do whatever board sport you want and visit cities such as Biarritz, Nice and Cannes where the famous cinema festival takes place every year."

If you decide to head to the eastern point of France there are the Rhône-Alpes, where Laurentian University offers a student exchange to, Franche-

Comté and the Alsace regions.

The Alsace region was formerly apart of Germany and a result one can see the heavy German influence in this region, even in the names of many of the streets and cities. The famous almost fairly tale love story like city of Strasbourg is located in this region and should be at the top of people's lists of places to see if in this region of Europe.

Strasbourg is a city that like many of Europe's best cities must be experienced on foot, as it has many canals running though its old city centre, one has the option of experiencing the city by boat.

No trip to France is complete, however, until one has visited the French capital.

The city of Paris is the second largest city in Europe and it alone has enough to keep tourists occupied for weeks.

"Obviously you should visit Paris," stated Deffains. "There's so much to do, especially in relation with culture; there are a lot of museums and monuments to visit like the Louvre museum, the Centre Pompidou (modern and contemporary art), also the Château de Versailles and so much more"

Other well known sites of this famous city include: the Arc de Triomphe de l'Étoile, the Eiffel Tower and arguably the most famous street in the world, the Avenue des Champs-Élysées.

The most important thing, however, is food, as Deffains states:

"Of course, you should make this trip a gastronomic trip, otherwise you would miss the most important quality of France."

French cuisine is renowned throughout the world and it so important to the French that it has even been named a "world intangible heritage" by UNESCO.

For anyone looking to keep costs down travelling, carpooling in Europe is very popular and safe.

Register for the site; make a profile and then depending on where you want to travel and where you are departing from, look for a person making the same trip.

The site works by having people with cars and empty seats, posting travel times, destinations and prices for potential car-poolers to browse and potentially accept.

It is a cheap way to travel and can be quicker than trains and almost certainly, buses.

Those interested can register at http://www.carpooling.fr/ for other European countries simply browse the site and find the country you desire to travel in. lambda@laurentian.ca





Photos by Matt Rabey

Canals in Strasbourg, France (left) and the Eiffel Tower in Paris (right).

Cortical column: exploring our consciousness

BY LUCAS TESSARO

"Je pense, donc je suis – I think therefore I am." Descartes' proof of existence, first appearing in Discours de la Méthode (1637) is considered a fundamental facet of Western thinking. Essentially, the argument purports that if X can 'think', then X must exist to conduct the thinking. Neuroscience itself is embroiled in philosophical arguments inasmuch as it is 'science' in the classical sense. For example - what proof do we have that consciousness exists, or that we are truly aware of our surroundings? Think of the Matrix – it tastes like chicken, because a proper set of neural impulses are activated, but it might not be chicken.

What kind of coordinated neuronal activity is responsible for the activation of the brain in such a way that consciousness arises, or even for us to become self-aware? From what we understand of the brain today, 'consciousness' is little more than patterns of neuronal activity with a frequency averaging between 10-40 Hz. This roughly equates to being able to distinguish two identical sensory inputs at a minimum of 20 msec apart. Anything less and those two signals are recorded as a single input. There is little argument regarding the perception of physiological

(objective) stimuli – the problem is the transference of these signals to the mental (subjective) level, referred to in literature as "the hard problem of consciousness" (David Chalmers).

The mental interpretation of these stimuli rely solely on past experiences of those stimuli and an individual's equally subjective system of categorization and

But what if our brains are little more than radios, perceiving and interpreting information, without actually contributing to the comprehen-

labelling. So how we perceive and understand the world is completely unique to each individual. The argument can be made that uniqueness itself is proof of the existence of consciousness. The identification of the "self" is little more than the representation of subjective experiences in the context of the description of the "outer world". This mechanism of self-identification is compatible with independent psychological and physiological data which

(objective) stimuli – the problem provides evidence of its reality.

The indubitable connection between memories and consciousness accentuates the level of complexity with which these two concepts are interlinked – so much so that here at Laurentian we offer a course aptly named Memory and Consciousness. That we have knowledge of past experiences, and can apply that knowledge to new situations is an argument for our self-awareness, and if we are self-aware then Descartes' argument suggests that we exist

But what if our brains are little more than radios, perceiving and interpreting information, without actually contributing to the comprehension of those signals? That is, what if our consciousness exists outside the brain, and that we are merely filters for it?









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"...Make your first impression last..."

CKLU DJ Profile: Melchior and Infanti

BY KALLIF BERENS

Hosts: Daniel Melchior (majoring in History) and Krista Infanti (majoring in Modern Languages)

Show: Simply Spicy, airing Tuesdays from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Airing since: October 2013
What kind of show: We play a mix of Latin/Italian music and discuss Spanish/Italian football, fashion and all parts of their cultures, and all of our club

How they got started on CKLU: It's a really great story.

We were at club days, and I [Daniel] was on the executive of the Italian club, and Krista was on the Hispanic club. We struck up conversation with each other and decided to walk around and look at all the different clubs, and ended up visiting the CKLU booth right across from us as our last stop. Eventually, we both decided to start up a show together!

What's on the airwaves: Eros Ramazzotti, Ricky Martin, Zucchero

Why Simply Spicy: I love alliterations, and we ended up

We were at club days, and I with the title after bouncing some [Daniel] was on the executive of names off of each other.

Favourite thing about being a DJ: It's so relaxing. I love coming into the studio and playing music and broadcasting content that I think is enjoyable for students

How to get in contact: On Twitter, @SimplySpicyCKLU, and at facebook.com/simplyspicyCKLU.



Nek nominations sweep across LU campus

BY WILLIE POLL

updates.

Look out Laurentian, there is a new craze sweeping over Canada, and it has found its way to Sudbury. It's called the Nek nominations.

It begins with someone chugging a pint of alcohol and then nominating two more people to do the same in the next 24 hours. Many people have added stunts, props, or other obstacles to one-up their friends and add creativity to their Nek nomination video.

Although Nek nominations have

sparked some controversy recently and some feel that it is a dangerous way to promote binge drinking, others find it a humorous game.

"I've seen some wild Nek nominations," Sydney Huk, a Laurentian student, said. "Of course it's stupid and there are always going to be people who take it too far, but it's like that with everything. All in all, I find them hilarious to watch and a great way to see videos of your friends back home."

Many Nek nominations involve

a variety of stunts such as drinking from a skate boot, drinking while tobogganing, jumping in the snow in small clothing and chugging back a beer, or even hanging upside down and funneling a pint.

"I feel like Nek nominations are a classic Canadian way of passing on one beer to another," Paul Jelley, a Nek nomination participant, said. "It blew up so quick because everyone loves beer and it's a funny way for everyone to show off how creative they can get with it."

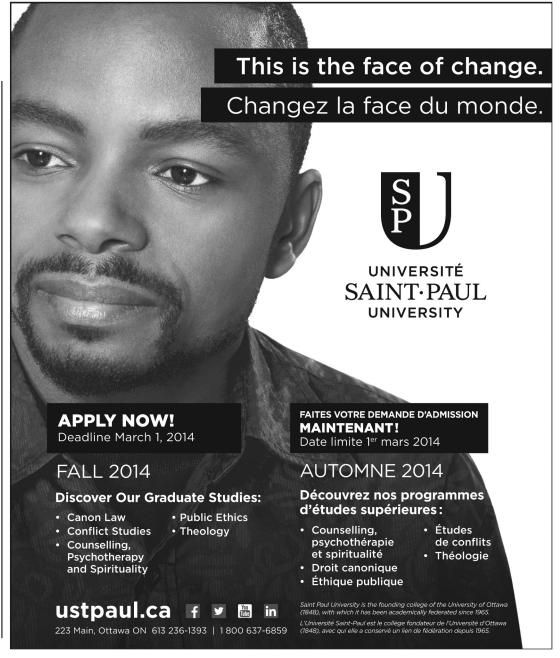
"I find some are extremely creative, but others are just outright boring to watch when people just sit in a room and they can't chug," Nick Dunham, a Nek nomination participant, said. "I was glad I was nominated because I had an idea beforehand, plus it was a way to bond with my friends even though they aren't in Sudbury with me; I also just had to get essentially naked on a lake in -30 weather to make my Mama proud."

Pride Laurentian kickstarts Pride Week at LU

BY KALLIE BERENS

Starting Friday, Feb. 7, and running until Thursday, Feb. 13, Pride Laurentian will be holding their annual Pride Week celebrations. "This year the main goal of Pride Week is bringing people out to events, and making them aware of the great stuff that's been going on at the school in regards to queer issues," said club president Sarah (last name withheld), who is in her second year of the nursing program. The events began with a presentation by Theodore Syrette from Sault Ste. Marie who discussed "Aboriginal queer experiences" in an event called "Teddy Talks." The events will continue to take place not only on campus but around the city, with Zigs located on Elgin offering free coat check this past Saturday to patrons and Let's Scrabbalatte Board Game Café on Elm hosting the final event of the week, a board game night. "Our community partners have been great to work with," said Sarah. "[They] were more than willing to help out." Key events to watch out for on campus include a permanent flag raising on Monday, Feb. 10 in the Student Centre, a resource fair the following day and a BDSM presentation on Wednesday. "Our BDSM presentation brought out

a good crowd last year, and was brought back this year by popular demand," said Sarah. Wednesday night's main event takes place once again at Zigs with dirty bingo, where you get the chance to win "adult" prizes. "Dirty bingo is always a hit," said Sarah, when asked what events she believed would be most popular. "I'm expecting the Let's Scrabbalatte social will be the new hit for this year's Pride Week." Pride Week is celebrated across Canada and lands on various dates throughout the year. Attendee numbers increase annually in some of Canada's larger cities. "Pride Week is an important time at Laurentian," said Vice-President of Student Issues Mark Mancini. "The Pride Association does a fantastic job of bringing awareness to the LGBTQ community, as well as celebrating how far the community has come. The SGA will always support, wholeheartedly, the important role that the LGBTQ community plays at Laurentian." For more information, visit Pride Laurentian on Facebook or drop by their office located in the Student Centre at L-228. kallie.berens@gmail.



Voyageurs miss playoffs

BY GABRIEL RODRIGUES

This past weekend, Laurentian's women's basketball team dropped both their games against the visiting Toronto Varsity Blues and Ryerson Rams, officially eliminating the Voyageurs from the playoffs for the fourth year in a row.

On Friday, Feb. 7, Toronto defeated Laurentian 71-56 at the Ben F. Avery Gymnasium.

In the first, the Varsity Blues came out strong forcing Laurentian to misuse the ball in the early going, but the Voyageurs clawed their way back late, finding themselves down to Toronto only 20-15 after the

However, in the second, Laurentian managed to only score nine points in the quarter compared to the Varsity Blues' 21, giving Toronto a 41-24 lead going into halftime.

After a much needed half, the Voyageurs showed a little more fire controlling most of the play in third scoring 18 points, but still, Toronto managed some crucial baskets, taking a 13 point lead in the last quarter.

In the fourth, Laurentian pushed it in the early going but it was a little too late, as the Varsity Blues scored 16 in the quarter, handing the Voyageurs their fifteenth loss of the season.

"We fought back," said Jason Hurley, Laurentian's women's basketball coach. "They (Toronto) had us down in the first half, but we played hard and tried until the very end, and that's all you can really ask for."

Varsity Blues guard Jill Stratton led all scorers with 26 points, adding six rebounds and two assists in the game for Toronto.

Laurentian Forward Emma Decloe led the Voyageurs with 14

points accumulating 11 rebounds along the way.

Devenae Bryce and Adrienne Moreau also had a major influence for the Voyagers, scoring 13 and 12 points respectively throughout the

Rebounds were key in this contest, as Toronto managed 32, with 23 coming in the defensive zone, compared to Laurentian's 21.

Although, there are some positives, as the Voyageurs did force the Varsity Blues to turn over the ball 29 times to Laurentian's 17 throughout the game.

Feb. On Saturday. Laurentian lost 71-61 to Ryerson, mathematically eliminating the Voyageurs of a playoffs spot for the 2013-14 campaign.

In the first, the Voyageurs came out fierce outscoring the Rams 12-4 in the early going, but after a much needed timeout, Ryerson scored nine points and found themselves only down by one at the end of the

At the beginning of the second, Laurentian scored some early baskets, but as the quarter went on, Ryerson forced the Voyageurs to turn over the ball with some defensive zone stops leading to some easy baskets, as the Rams took a 32-24 lead going into halftime.

In the third, the Voyageurs tried to muster some offensive opportunities, but Ryerson continued to finish some crucial baskets of their own, scoring 17 points in the quarter compared to Laurentian's 10.

However, in the fourth. Laurentian pushed forward managing to bring Ryerson's lead down to only six points in the late stages of the quarter, but the Rams held off the Voyageurs last ditch effort and won by 10 points.

"We came back and showed



Photo by Gabriel Rodrigues

Devenae Bryce looks for an open lane in a game against the Ryerson Rams on Saturday, Feb.8.

some heart," said Hurley. "Ryerson could have easily beat us by 20 or 25 points, but we didn't give-up and played hard."

Decloe, who is a graduating Voyageurs this season, proved to be a major influence for Laurentian in the game, leading all scorers with 28 points, adding six rebounds along the way.

Ryerson guard Keneca Pingue-Giles had 18 points, 14 rebounds and four steals to lead the Rams to victory over the Voyageurs.

Again, Laurentian struggled with rebounds, as Rverson outrebounded. the Voyageurs 37-29 throughout the

Also, Ryerson's use of the ball was key with the Rams managing 18 combined assists compared to Laurentian's 12.

Hurley said his team showed some grit in the late stages of the game against Ryerson.

"Obviously it's discouraging because we had enough talent and pieces to win," he said. "They all worked hard, and especially Emma played her ass off. And that's what you want, a player that your team can rally around.'

Hurley believes although the Voyageurs are eliminated from the playoffs, his team should be proud of their performances throughout the second half of the season.

"We really played hard all semester," he said. "We still have two games and have two girls who aren't going to play for us after next year. So I basically told everybody to cherish the next practices, video sessions, bus rides and games. Plus, we can still be spoilers, so this year isn't over just yet."

Laurentian travels to Ottawa next weekend to take on the Gee-Gees on Friday, Feb. 14 at the Montpetit Hall and the Carleton Ravens on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Ravens Nest with both games beginning at 6 p.m.

Women's track team achieve two OUA qualifying standards in Boston

BY LAMBDA STAFF

Eight athletes from the Laurentian women's track team traveled across the border this past weekend, competing at the Dave Hemery Valentine Invitational at the University of Boston. The squad returned with seven personal bests and two OUA qualifying standards in this major meet that involved dozens of east-coast universities and teams from as far away as Texas.

The Vees were led by senior runner, Adrienne Wilson, who ran a three-second personal best in the mile with a time of 4:56.69 (equal to a 4:35.19/1500m). She was 21st of 168 runners. Only two hours later, she ran a seven-second personal best time of 2:57.39 in the 1000m, finishing 13th and breaking the OUA qualification standard of 3:05.

The 3000m reaped four personal best

performances for Laurentian runners, with rookie Marissa Lobert running a 14-second personal best time of 10:04.40; Alyssa Bedard, a 16-second PB time of 10:11.92; Michelle Kennedy, a 22-second PB time of 10:14.51; and Samantha Edwards, an eightsecond PB time of 10:17.15. Kennedy's time qualified her for the OUA championships. The Vees placed 67th, 77th, 80th and 88th, respectively.

Alicia Violin met the OUA standard in the triple jump, leaping an indoor best distance of 11.15 meters for 18th place.

Laurentian's track team's competition is the Hal Brown Last Chance in Toronto, this Friday, followed by the OUA Championships at York on Feb. 21.

Massage therapist urges LU students to utilize discount

BY GABRIEL RODRIGUES

As school assignments and midterms near the horizon at Laurentian University, stressed out students might want to consider receiving a massage, says David Ludgate, registered massage therapist at Healthy Living.

"When you relieve stress, it helps with productivity," said Ludgate. "This is an opportunity for students to come in and take advantage of the discount because I'm only here to better their lifestyle."

2013, Since November, Laurentian University and Healthy Living has teamed up to provide students, who are members of the SGA, on-campus massages at the Ben F. Avery Physical Education Building for a reduced rate.

The basic SGA coverage for massage therapy is \$300, which can cover up to four one-hour sessions, with members having up to 80 per cent of their sessions covered. So this means, an SGA member only has to remit 20 per cent of the payment after one session is completed.

For example, Ludgate said, a basic one-hour session will cost roughly \$85, however; SGA members will have the cost reduced by 20 per cent, meaning students will only pay less than \$20.

"Most students are on budget," he said. "So this is a great way for them to save a little money while relieving some aches and pains



Photo by Gabriel Rodrigues

David Ludgate, registered massage therapist at Healthy Living, prepares a massage table.

that might be bothering them. From my experience, anybody who has come in and received a massage has felt a lot better."

Not only does this deal cover students, but faculty members as well. Also, Ludgate said, if chosen, there is an extended plan for SGA members that will cover \$500 of massage therapy.

personal trainer and conditioning coach at Healthy Living, went back to school and graduated at Everest College in massage therapy to increase his credentials.

"It's tough to be a student," he said. "This was a great way for me to gain more experience and help others."

Ludgate said the deal isn't Ludgate, who used to be a restricted to varsity athletes, but

any student who is an SGA member "should take full advantage of this

"This is for everybody," Ludgate said. "When I was a student, I didn't have the same amount of opportunities', so I want students to know that they can come here and utilize their services because this is a great deal for them."

Ludgate said massages range

from 30 minutes to hourly sessions depending on the individual.

The hours of operation are as followed:

- Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
- Tuesday and Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday (appointments are available upon request)

Ludgate is certain that massages reduce stress and said he gets massages himself to help with his own aches and pains.

"Massages are a great way to help stay proactive," he said. "I'm an avid lifter, and one day I had a back spasm, but after a few sessions with a massage therapist, I definitely felt like a new person."

Ludgate said a massage isn't just about recovering from an injury, but also "preventing injuries."

"You need that human touch to heal," he said. "It is part of the equation to help better your lifestyle. I can't say I can cure everything but this definitely helps."

For more information regarding an appointment for a massage, please call Ludgate at 705 671-3865, email healthylivin l@gmail. com or visit room 124 at the Ben F. Avery Physical Education Building.

Men's hockey team lose ninth straight game

BY LAMBDA STAFF

The Laurentian Voyageurs men's hockey team have lost nine-straight games, and are now mathematically eliminated from playoff contention.

The Voyageurs played against the Nipissing Lakers on Friday, Feb. 7, at the Countryside Arena.

The Lakers took control early on. Brogan Bailey opened the scoring five minutes into the first, as he put one past Voyageur goaltender Alain Valiquette. The Lakers would follow up with another goal soon after when third-year Dane Horvat scored a power play goal, putting his team up 2-0 on the Voyageurs to end the first period.

The Voyageurs were unable to find their footing in the second, and the Lakers

continued to add to their tally of goals. The visiting team would put another two in the back of the net before Valiquette was relieved by Charlie Millen. The Lakers would get another before the end of the period, making it 5-0 in their favour heading into the third period.

Vincent Llorca scored his fifth of the season, putting Laurentian on the board at the midway point in the third. The game would end 6-1 in favour of the Nipissing Lakers, with the shots also in their favour at 42-37. Valiquette made 24 saves out of 28 shots, while Millen stopped 14 of the 12 that were thrown his way.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, the Voyageurs hosted the Carleton Ravens.

Carleton opened up the scoring at 5:24

of the first period, after killing off a Mitch Porowski roughing penalty. Carleton's Damian Cross got his 15th goal of the season, finishing a 2-on-1 play to open the scoring, assists going to Michael McNamee and Joe Pleckaitis. Carleton put on the pressure, but couldn't put another one past Valiquette, finishing the period up 1-0 after outshooting the Voyageurs 13-3.

Carleton continued the pressure in the second period, leading to multiple power play chances, but Laurentian killed off a 5-on-3, shortly followed by a too many men penalty before Carleton extended their lead to two, minutes after the penalty expired. Porowski got the unassisted tally for Carleton after a shot from the hash marks ended up past Valiquette at 11:47 of the second. The period ended with shots 30-10 in favour of Carleton.

Carleton scored two goals in the final period to finish the game 4-0. Jeff Hayes got his ninth goal of the season at 4:08 into the period to put them up by 3, after burying a rebound, with assists to Corey Durocher and Jason Seed. The final goal came with 55 seconds left in the game, after Valiquette was pulled for the sixth skater while Laurentian was on the power play. Linden Bahm put up the final tally for his eighth of the season, assisted by Jordan Deagle and Joey West. Carleton goaltender Ryan Dube made 16 saves to earn his first shutout of the season. Valiquette finished the game with 35 saves on 38 shots.

Rabey's round-up: lack of salary cap creates disparity in soccer leagues



BY MATT RABEY

Last week in La Liga, Athletic Madrid topped the table for the first time since the 1995/96 season.

To say that this is a welcome change in the normal hierarchy of La Liga is an understatement, as the league has been dominated in recent years by the likes of Real Madrid and Barcelona.

This would be bad enough if it were just Spain, but it extends past that.

Other top leagues in Europe have suffered; as the outcome of the season is all but certain even before the halfway mark of the season, just look at Scotland after the collapse of Rangers or Germany and FC Bayern.

The issue unfortunately has to do completely with money.

Professional football in every major league in the world does not have a salary cap, except for the MLS, so a wealthy club can simply buy

In fact, many fans of less wealthy clubs can only hope that someone rich will come along and buy their club so that they will become competitive.

One of the best examples of this is with Bundesliga side TSG 1899 Hoffenheim.

In 2000, Dietmar Hopp financially backed Hoffenheim (back then not even in a professional league) and the club steadily began to climb the various tables into the first

Currently, Hoffenheim is an established Bundesliga club with a stadium capacity almost ten times larger than the village Hoffenheim

Since most leagues don't have salary caps, it is worth a look at a league that does, the MLS.

Due to their salary caps, the MLS has realized that big players won't want to come there to play, so they have developed the designated player rule.

Three players per team can be paid whatever the club can afford and while this may sound like an idea to attract world-class talent thus far it really hasn't worked.

The MLS has managed to attract some pretty big names, but near the end of their

Players like David Beckham and Thierry Henry being among the largest names to have graced the pitch in the MLS had long since passed their prime before heading to the MLS for one last go at the big leagues.

These two have not been exceptions, but rather the rule as most designated players in the MLS have been over 30 years of age and past their prime.

So is there a way to make a league competitive, but of high quality at the same time?

About the only way for leagues to have quality both proper competition would be for every top league

in the world to follow suit and cap salaries, or like England currently, for many teams to have a large influx of cash at the same time, otherwise the best players would all go to whichever league didn't.

There is of course a third option, which is to develop young talent and make your club from the ground up, something Borussia Dortmund did successfully after near bankruptcy and collapse in the early 2000's.

This option, however, is difficult to accomplish when players begin to develop and suddenly a richer, larger club simply buys

In the meantime, football is still an amazing sport to watch and there is still competition to be had, it is just unfortunate that most of the time it is only between a few teams and it is really a pleasant change when it isn't.

lambda@laurentian.ca

Column: women's hockey team establishing core

BY RON GUILLET

The Laurentian Voyageurs women's hockey team have concluded their first-ever season in the Ontario University Athletics.

The Voyageurs had a 9-14-1 record with a -31 goal differential, finishing just shy of the eighth and final playoff spot.

Expectations were tempered entering the team's inaugural season, as head coach Stacey Colarossi and the Laurentian brass had to recruit a team without any established pieces in place.

A playoff berth would have been a strong statement from the new club, but realistically this season had to be about identifying key players and building a foundation. With 24 games logged into the Voyageurs' history book, some standouts have emerged from the fray:

Laura Deller is the unequivocal team MVP. The 18-year-old rookie goaltender faced an average of 31.9 shots-per-game and put up a .921 save percentage, which ranks sixth in the league among goaltenders who have played 10 or more

games. She also finished with a .500 winning percentage while the team finished with a .396. At 5-foot-4, Deller does not possess a large frame but she compensates for it by challenging shooters and relying on strong positional play.

Samantha Morell led the Voyageurs with 11 goals and ranks 16th in the league and first among rookies. The diminutive forward has a nose for the net and plays bigger than her 5-foot-2 frame should dictate. She finished with 15 points, second on the team.

Amanda Pereira topped Laurentian with 16 points and finished fifth in rookie scoring. She led all rookies with 12 assists and ranked 18th in the league in that department.

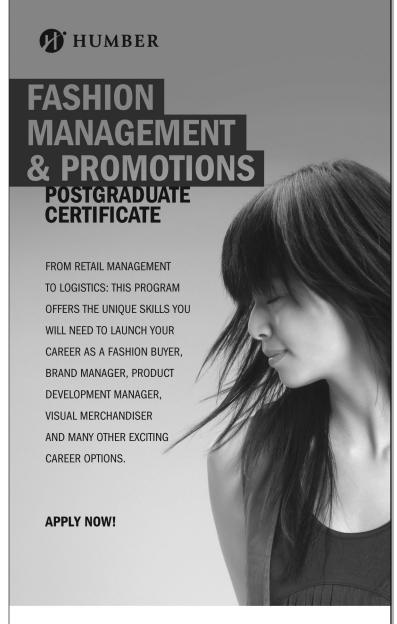
Jessica Staats proved to be another valuable rookie for the Voyageurs as she amassed 10 points, ranking 12th in rookie scoring. Perhaps more impressive are her six power play goals that rank second in the league and give her three more than any of her teammates.

Captain Julie Hebert finished

fifth in scoring among defensemen with 14 points and six goals. Considering Laurentian only has two players (Hebert and Aoife Cox) who are not rookies, Hebert is relied on heavily for her leadership and two-way ability.

With a strong core to build from, the Voyageurs still have to focus on areas of concern such as their puck-possession game. Consider that Laurentian was outshot in 18 of 24 games, posting a 3-15 record. Laurentian outshot their opponents in six games, posting a perfect 6-0 record when doing so. It's worth noting that Laurentian gradually improved in this area and it's something Colarossi alluded to earlier in the season. They closed out the campaign with two wins and, as mentioned, outshot their opponent in both games.

With the Voyageurs now establishing a young core to build around, it will be interesting to track their development next season as the inaugural season is put behind



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Voyageurs snap losing skid with two big victories at home

BY GABRIEL RODRIGUES

Laurentian's men's basketball team defeated both the Toronto Varsity Blues and the Ryerson Rams this past weekend at the Ben F. Avery Gymnasium.

On Friday, Feb. 7, the Voyageurs won 103-74 against Toronto, ending Laurentian's four game losing streak.

In the first, both teams came out strong going back and forth at each other, but with key stops, the Voyageurs would get the upper hand taking the quarter 26-19.

However, Toronto had other ideas in the second, as the Varsity Blues started to make some timely baskets, but after a Laurentian timeout, the Voyageurs would rally and eventually scored 25 points in the quarter, taking a 51-43 lead going into halftime.

In the third, the Voyageurs continued their high scoring ways, managing 24 points in the quarter compared to Toronto's 17.

Laurentian would not let up either, as the Voyageurs managed to score 28 in the fourth keeping the Varsity Blues to only 14, blowing out Toronto by 29 points.

"This was a big game for us," said Shawn Swords, Laurentian's men's basketball coach. "After losing four straight, all that kind of gets to everybody and we needed things to change. So we had a good week of practice where we were talking positive and built some confidence."

Laurentian guard Alex Ratte led all scorers with 35 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists throughout the game.

Toronto's Alex Hill scored 23 points to lead the Varsity Blues against the Voyageurs.

Laurentian's use of the ball was key to their success against Toronto with the Voyageurs generating 29 combined assists compared to the Varsity Blues' 10.

Also, the Voyageurs managed

to outrebound Toronto 35-25 with 26 of them coming in Laurentian's defensive zone.

On Saturday, Feb. 8, Laurentian defeated the sixth CIS ranked Ryerson Rams 82-69.

Before the game, Voyageurs athletics honoured graduating players from both basketball programs at Laurentian. From the women's team, Emma Decloe and Krysten Patrick, and from the men's team, Ratte and Josh Budd.

In the first, Laurentian started the game off strong with Ratte scoring four straight three-point shots in the early going, but towards the end, Ryerson began to turn it on finding themselves only down by four in the quarter.

However, in the second, the Voyageurs picked up their game and outscored the Rams in a tightly defensive quarter18-14, taking a 41-33 lead going into halftime.

In the third, Ryerson brought

a little more fire and started to hit some timely shots in the quarter, but after a timeout, Laurentian fixed certain things defensively and took a six point lead into the fourth.

In the last quarter, both teams began to push each other with Ryerson trying to salvage some sort of momentum, but after some key stops, Laurentian would pull away and win the game by 13 points.

"That was our best 40 minutes all season," said Swords. "We outworked them and our effort level is something I always stress, so the guys really pushed themselves. They (Ryerson) are highly ranked so we should definitely get some confidence from this win for sure."

Ratte led all scorers with 28 points, adding eight assists and 11 rebounds for the Voyageurs throughout the game.

Ryerson's Jahmal Jones led the Rams with 26 points, 18 rebounds and two assists.

Once again, Laurentian's ball movement was key to their success with the Voyageurs combining for 17 assists compared to Ryerson's nine.

Before this weekend, Laurentian suffered four straight losses, but according to Swords, his team can now generate some confidence to bring momentum into the playoffs, which are two games away.

"We can build from these two wins," he said. "Now that we know we can play the best teams in the country, it's time for us to bring this kind of effort out every single time we walk on that court."

Laurentian travels next weekend to take on the second ranked Ottawa Gee-Gees on Friday, Feb. 14 at the Montpetit Hall and the first ranked Carleton Ravens on Saturday, Feb. 15 at the Ravens Nest with both games beginning at 8 p.m.

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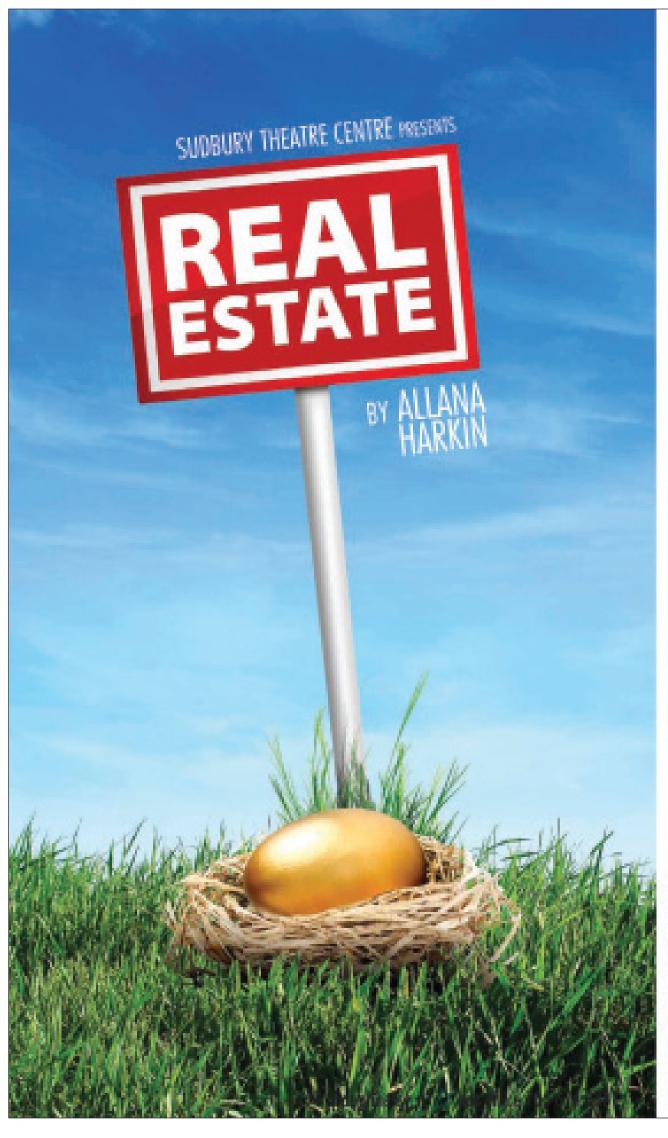
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